

COVID UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2021

The underlying principles of our practice

We continue to take our responsibility for the welfare of members and friends very seriously. Of course, we want nothing more than to return to pre-pandemic Alyth life, but this must be balanced with our obligation to manage the risk of those coming into the Alyth building at a time when Covid remains endemic in society. We also have an additional responsibility, one that does not apply to non values-based organisations: our success is not only in 'filling seats', but also in ensuring that those with specific needs can come into the Alyth building with their community if they wish.

We regularly review our Covid protocols to ensure that they reflect these responsibilities, and monitor local Covid infection rates. We are confident that our current approach, with its two main measures, remains the most appropriate level of response:

1. Mask wearing during ingress and egress

In common with many public-sector buildings, we continue to ask members to wear masks when moving around the Alyth building. Ingress and egress is when we are most likely to have face to face contact with others, which is when Covid transmission can most easily take place. This is also the time when, as individuals, we cannot exercise control over who we encounter or how closely, which is a particular concern to those with vulnerabilities. Please remember to bring a mask with you when you come to the Alyth building.

2. Limited capacity and pre-registration

We know that it is annoying to let us know that you are coming, and that this is a disincentive to attendance. Like you, we yearn for a time when coming to Shul can be a spontaneous act. By limiting capacity, we are able to avoid overcrowding, which was a regular feature of pre-pandemic Alyth life, especially on Erev Shabbat. This also allows us to pray unmasked, as we can keep additional space between rows.

Moving forward

We are slowly increasing the number of seats in the Beit Tefillah, and over the coming weeks, will be monitoring air quality to ascertain whether we can increase capacity further, with a view to larger congregations in December. This will, of course, be dependent on prevailing Covid rates as we enter the winter months.

We hope to be able to welcome more members as part of our very special commemoration of Chanukah (see over the page for more details).

PROGRAMME DOWN TIME

A reminder that, as we have shared over the past months, Alyth will be taking a short period of staff 'down time' during the last week in October and first week in November. Shabbat Services and activities run by members will continue through this fortnight. Other learning and social programmes will not take place.

The office will remain open with reduced staffing during this period. Calls to the main Alyth number will be answered between 10:00 and 16:00, Monday to Friday. The Emergency Number will be answered as normal for cases of bereavement or urgent pastoral need, however the Care Line will not be answered for these two weeks (please call the main office number).

Emails sent to Alyth staff will not be read during this period.

CHANUKAH 5782: LIGHTINGS OF RETURN



Chanukah is, at its core, a celebration of return to a place of worship. The first Chanukah was an opportunity for the Maccabees to mark the festival of Sukkot that they had missed through their exclusion from the Temple.

We, too, have been kept away from the home of our prayer lives. We have missed being together as we have marked our transitions, celebrations and times of sadness.

This Chanukah, we will hold a number of special 'lightings of return', inviting members to come together with others who have shared a similar experience over the last 20 months.

1st night - Sunday 28 November

Many Alyth families were unable to be together for Chanukah last year, so will want to gather on this first evening. There will therefore not be a formal Alyth candle lighting on this evening. If you would like to share this first night Chanukah with another Alyth member, or can host another Alyth member to light with you, please contact Lynette. Candles will also be lit as part of our regular 'Academy' session.

2nd night - Monday 29 November

A special chanukiah lighting for those who have suffered a bereavement since March 2020

Bereavement without the ability to say kaddish together in person has been an especially challenging aspect of the pandemic. We begin our special Chanukah 'lightings of return' with an evening for those who have lost a loved one in the past 20 months. Beginning at 18:30 with light refreshments. Followed by a Yizkor service with the Alyth clergy team, including the opportunity to say Kaddish together, leading up to the lighting of the chanukiah.

3rd night - Tuesday 30 November

A special chanukiah lighting for those who been on a status journey since March 2020

Anyone who has been through conversion or a status journey is invited to join with our current Essentials class for a lighting, celebration and refreshments at 20:00.

4th night - Wednesday 1 December

A special chanukiah lighting for all those who have been part of our Darkness to Light programme

The opportunity for anyone who has volunteered as part of our special care programme to join together for refreshments and a candle lighting from 18:30

5th night - Thursday 2 December

Launch of ThursWAY

A special chanukiah lighting for Primary School children, especially those who started school in the last 20 months

We launch our new club for all primary school age children with a special Chanukah tea and Chanukiah lighting. ThursWAY (Thurs With Alyth Youth) will run from 16:00-17:00 every Thursday in term time.

6th night - Friday 3 December

Shabbat Chanukah

A special chanukiah lighting for all those who marked Bar or Bat Mitzvah with Alyth away from our Beit Tefillah

Between March 2020 and October 2021, 70 young people marked becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah with Alyth away from our bimah. On this Shabbat Chanukah, we will begin with a special Chanukiah lighting on the forecourt at 18:15 recognising this special group of young people.

7th night - Saturday 4 December

Shabbat Chanukah

A special chanukiah lighting for all Alyth babies born since March 2020

Join us for a special Sensory Havdalah and candle lighting beginning at 16:00. All babies (and their families) are welcome, especially those born in the last 20 months.

8th night - Sunday 5 December

A special chanukiah lighting for those who have been married or engaged since March 2020

A late lunch, lazy afternoon, and early Chanukiah lighting for couples who have been married or got engaged in the last 20 month. Starting at 14:00

These lightings will require pre-registration. Links will be available from w/c 8 November.

Pray With Us

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline for the in-person registration and online Zoom links.
The services can also be accessed by going to www.youtube.com/c/AlythRS

EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

Hybrid Services from our Beit Tefillah (Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26 November)

Our Erev Shabbat services, taking place in the synagogue Beit Tefillah, with extra ventilation, reduced capacity and Covid protocols in place. We ask that you let us know you are coming to avoid overcrowding. These services will be fully hybrid, and are also available through Zoom or YouTube.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

Saturday 6 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

An in-person service led by Rabbi Josh and Rabbi Hannah from our Beit Tefillah, including the B'nei Mitzvah of Lila and Lucas Hilton.

Saturday 13 November

Early Start Bat Mitzvah Service, 9:00

An in-person service led by Rabbi Hannah, including the Bat Mitzvah of Raquel Proskowitz. This service will also be online.

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

An in-person service led by Rabbi Josh, accompanied by the Alyth Choir, from our Beit Tefillah. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Ava Jacobs.

Kollot In-Person and Online, 10:30

Our informal participatory minyan led by Rabbi Hannah. Please note the start time for this service has returned to 10:30.

Sensory Havdallah, 16:00

See over the page for more information.

Saturday 20 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

An in-person service led by Rabbi Hannah from our Beit Tefillah, including the Bar Mitzvah of Tomer Ribak.

Big Bang, 11:00

Alyth's world famous participative musical tefillah experience for all the family. Led by Cantor Tamara and Rabbi Elliott with the Big Bang musicians.

Saturday 27 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

An in-person service led by Rabbi Elliott from our Beit Tefillah, including the Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Rock-Joffe.

Imrei Finu, 10:30

Imrei Finu includes lots of singing to new and familiar melodies, davening and space for personal prayer, as well as an informal Torah reading. This service will be led by Rabbi Josh and Justin Wise.

Parallel services will take place in the Youth Hall with windows open. Please dress appropriately.



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Pray With Us for Families

Baby Den In-Person

Fridays 12, 19, 26 November (10:30)

Chug-a-lug into Shabbat with Rabbi Hannah or Cantor Tamara. Sing your favourite Baby Den songs, dance to a shabbat beat and wave to some familiar faces. For families with Young Children.

There is limited space in these services, which must be pre-registered by [clicking here](#).

Sensory Havdallah In-Person

Saturday 13 November (16:00)

Havdalah is one of our most Sensory experiences. We see the flickering candle flame, smell the sweet spices and taste the wine. Join Rabbi Hannah, in the Youth Hall with the windows open, for this special Sensory Havdalah experience where our youngest members can wave goodbye to Shabbat and prepare to start the week new. Feel free to wear your PJs or onesies! Please let us know you are coming by [clicking here](#).

Pre-Shabbat Story Time In-Person

Fridays 12, 19, 26 November (16:30)

Those pre-school in age are invited to join us for a pre shabbat story to help bring in shabbat.

There is very limited space in these services, which must be pre-registered by [clicking here](#).

Big Bang In-Person and Online

Saturday 20 November (11:30)

Alyth's world famous participative musical tefillah experience for all the family. Led by Cantor Tamara and Rabbi Elliott with the Big Bang musicians.

Services during the week

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline for the service Zoom links

Wednesday Ma'ariv Online

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 27 November (20:00)

Join us for a mid-week evening service led by Alyth members from their homes.

Sunday Shacharit Online

Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 November (09:00)

Our lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast (please provide your own bagels...) Led by Alyth members from their homes.

Support the Alyth Building Project for free each time you shop at Amazon



Every time you shop using [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Alyth. Alyth supporters who visit Amazon Smile will find the exact same Amazon they know and love and you can use your current Amazon account.



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Learn With Us

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline for the session Zoom links where you will also find the source sheets for each session.

Alyth Chavruta Project

Thursdays 11, 18, 25 November, 19:00-20:00

Following our break for summer and the High Holy Days, the Alyth Chavruta Project restarts in November. Chavruta is a traditional form of Jewish practice of studying regularly with a partner. You can decide how and when to study during the week, and then we all come together as a group on Thursday evenings.

For six weeks we will work our way through a section of Talmud that contains both legal and narrative sections, along with commentaries and supplementary texts. No prior knowledge is required and the text is accessible for all levels. If you're new, you can either come to the Alyth Chavruta Project with a partner in mind, or we can match you up with someone to study with. If you have studied with the Chavruta Project previously, please email Rabbi Elliott to let him know you will be returning.

[Click here](#) if you are signing up for the first time, or email Rabbi Elliott at elliott@alyth.org.uk for more information. The first text pack will be sent out on Friday 5 November, and the first Thursday evening session will be on 11 November.

E-ssentials - Jewish Texts

Tuesdays 9, 16, 23, 30 November, 20:00-21:00

Our regular introduction to Judaism class taught by our clergy with Jon Epstein. E-ssentials is the perfect class for those coming to Judaism for the first time, or looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime - or anywhere in between. Currently taught online, with one hybrid (in person and online session per month). New students are always welcome.

In November we continue our short course on Jewish texts, their origins, use and authority, as well as looking at Chanukah together.

9 November Foundations 3: Genres in biblical texts and how they are used (online)

16 November The formation of Judaism: Rabbinic literature - halachah (online)

23 November Preparing for Chanukah (online)

30 November Chanukah lighting and the Synagogue (hybrid session)

We encourage all class members who are able to join us in-person for a special Chanukah lighting and to look together at the design of a synagogue and our Beit Tefillah.

Future class dates are **7 & 14 December**.

Please contact hannah@alyth.org.uk for more information about this programme.



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Pardes - short course (online) Thursdays 11, 18, 25 November, 13:00-14:00

Is it true that the Talmud says that there are seven genders?

Questions about sex and gender identity are increasingly becoming a prominent part of public discourse, but what does our rabbinic literature have to say about it? Join Rabbi Elliott for a series of Pardes sessions looking at what the rabbis of the Mishnah, Talmud, and beyond, have to say about gender identity.

Shabbat Shiur (in-person & online) Saturday 20 November, 9:15-10:15

The Story of Esau

On this Shabbat Vayishlach, in which Jacob is reconciled with his brother, Esau, join Rabbi Hannah as we explore the figure of Esau in midrashic literature.

This session will take place in the synagogue library with windows open, and can also be joined via Zoom. If coming in person, please dress appropriately.

Adult Hebrew

Biblical Hebrew

Sundays, 11:00-12:00

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability.

Email edwardjgold@hotmail.com if you would like to join this class so that you can be sent the link and materials in advance.

Hebrew reading from Scratch

Tuesdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 19:00-20:00

Taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman, who has been one of the UK's leading synagogue-based Jewish educators for the last few decades. Take an hour each week in term time to learn how to read Hebrew from scratch.

Support the Alyth Building Project for free each time you shop at Amazon



Every time you shop using [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Alyth. Alyth supporters who visit Amazon Smile will find the exact same Amazon they know and love and you can use your current Amazon account.



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Be With Us

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline for the session Zoom links.

Regular Activities

Senior Club (in-person)

Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November, 14:00-15:30

In-person activities and tea for our senior members.

These sessions must be pre-booked with Lynette at lynette@alyth.org.uk or on 020 8457 8793.

Monday Club (in-person)

Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November, 19:00-20:30

A friendly in-person meeting place for people with learning disabilities.

This session must be pre booked. For more information please contact lynette@alyth.org.uk.

Alyth Choral Society (in-person)

Tuesdays, 20:00-22:00

For Choral Society Members only. Go to www.alythchoralsociety.org for more information.

News, Views & Schmooze (in-person)

Wednesdays 10 & 24 November, 13:00-14:30

Join us for a couple of hours of schmooze to discuss what is going on in the world around us. Led by volunteers from the Soup and Schmooze group. All are welcome but these sessions must be pre-booked with lynette@alyth.org.uk.

Mellow Chair Yoga for All Ages (online)

Thursdays, 11:00-12:00

Our special Chair Yoga and Meditation with Maxine, open to all ages wishing to enhance overall mental and physical wellbeing.

[Click here](#) to register and pay for the class.

Synagogue Choir Rehearsal (in-person)

Saturdays 13 & 27 June, 9:15-10:15

Rehearsing Alyth's choral repertoire.

Monthly Activities

Alyth Book Club (online)

Monday 8 November, 18:30-19:30

This month's book is "The Hours Count" by Jillian Cantor. [Click here](#) for more information about the book.

December's session is on Monday 6 December. The book will be "The Tunnel" by A.B. Yehoshua, [click here](#) for more information about the book.

Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

Sunday 14 November, 08:15

The Alyth Cycling Community brings riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information contact laurancemendoza@aol.com.

Singing for Pleasure (in-person & online)

Sunday 14 November, 15:30-17:00

Join Viv and sing songs from the shows, Israeli folksongs, songs from the 60s and much, much more. No need to audition, read music or feel intimidated.

Monthly Drop-in for Recent Refugees (in-person)

Sunday 28 November, 13:30-15:30

We are delighted to welcome back the Refugee Drop-in for in-person sessions.

Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation

Friday's 17:15 - 18:15

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation helps us to open our hearts and find peace through our spiritual heritage. [Click here](#) to make a donation towards the costs of employing the facilitators.

Learn With Us - Youth and Education

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline for the session Zoom links.

Contact mike@alyth.org.uk for more information about any of these programmes.

Weekly Learning

SMG In-Person

Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 November, (10:00-12:00)

Our experiential Jewish education programme for Reception to Year 6. [Click here](#) to enrol into SMG. SMG provides our youngest members the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity by exploring a curriculum of key Jewish behaviours and rituals and core Jewish texts. With our wonderful team of Educators and Madrichim (youth leaders), everyone will encounter both Jewish Studies and Hebrew, in a creative and dynamic space.

Ruach 1 - 4 In-Person

Fridays 12, 19, 26 November (17:15-18:15)

Ruach is our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim (youth leaders). Our participants get to explore their Jewish identity through the lens of community.

Please note that we are returning to 17:15-18:15 to enable young people and their families to stay for the service in-person.

Participants will be able to enter Alyth from 16:30 for Drop-In.

Drama Activities

Alyth Children's Theatre (ACT) Matilda

Thursdays 11, 18, 25 November (17:00-18:15)

Does your child/ren love to sing, dance, act, play drama games, put on a show, and enjoy being together?

ACT has been a highlight of the Alyth calendar for many years and we are so excited to be back! We would like to invite you to join this year's Alyth Children's Theatre Cast, the show weekend is in June 2022.

The group rehearse all year and then we transform the Beit Tefillah into a theatre with lights, sound, backstage wings and proper costumes.

[Click here](#) to enrol into ACT

Please make sure you sign in through ShulCloud – otherwise you will see the non-members fee.

Academy Legally Blonde

Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 November (18:00-20:00)

Academy of Performing Arts has been a feature of the Alyth calendar for over 20 years and we are so excited to be back!

Over this time, several hundred children have gained skills and confidence and developed close friendships amongst the group. The end of year production (taking place over the early May bank holiday weekend in 2022) has featured many highly talented children who have been showcased in such musicals as Annie, Bugsy, Little Shop of Horrors, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Guys and Dolls, Anything Goes and Footloose!

[Click here](#) to enrol into Academy

Please make sure you sign in through ShulCloud – otherwise you will see the non-members fee.

Learn With Us - Youth and Education

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Contact mike@alyth.org.uk for more information about any of these programmes.

Leadership

Year 10 Hadracha

Tuesdays 9, 16, 23, 30 November (18:00-19:30)

All of Year 10, regardless of previous training or experience in Year 9, are invited to join with us for our 9-week course. As well as being a fun social for our teens, the course will provide you with the crucial leadership skills and ability to volunteer (and later work as paid staff in Yr11+) on the full breadth of Youth programming at Alyth. The course is full of life skills for your future and looks great on your CV! [Click here](#) to enrol into Year 10 Hadracha (please make sure you sign in through ShulCloud – otherwise you will see the non-members fee).

Introducing...

ThursWAY
Thursdays 16:00-17:00

starting in December...

Kids come play... brighten up your Thursday afternoon with some cosy vibes With Alyth Youth!

For all Primary School aged children, join us at our 'drop in and out' after school club. Staffed by our Youth & Ed Hub and madrichim, you can chat, play video/board games, read stories, have a nap or just have fun!

ThursWAY will launch with a Chanukah Tea and Lighting on 2 December 2021.

Let's bring the light back this winter!

Contact mike@alyth.org.uk for more information.

Alyth | Build with us

**BUILD THE
FUTURE**

Work is moving forward to enable us to remain in the building when the main works start early in 2022. The upstairs back corridor is being cleared to create a large meeting, teaching and prayer space. Other rooms upstairs are being renovated, including with new toilets. A new route is being created to allow access to the offices downstairs. The work is making good progress, as you can see from these pictures.

